

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

1. PARAS 2 THROUGH 5 MAY BE BRIEFED TO THE PRESS IN CONJUNCTION WITH NOVEMBER 25 SITREP.

2. (U) THE REGIME ANNOUNCED THAT A CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM HELD NOVEMBER 21 HAD MADE A NUMBER OF CHANGES IN THE POLITBURO AND HAD NAMED SECRET POLICE CHIEF NAJIBULLAH AS A CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

3. (U) FULL MEMBER DASTAGIR PANJSHIRI AND CANDIDATE MEMBERS ABDUL QADAR AND ISMAIL DANESH WERE DROPPED FROM THE POLITBURO. THE FIRST TWO WERE SAID TO HAVE REQUESTED TO BE RELIEVED FROM POLITBURO DUTIES FOR HEALTH REASONS. DANESH, WHO HAD ALREADY TAKEN UP HIS NEW POST AS AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA, WAS SAID TO BE NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH POLITBURO WORK. ADDED AS CANDIDATE MEMBERS WERE MINISTER OF TRIBES AND NATIONALITIES SULIMOW LAEQ AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE LT. GENERAL NAZAR MOHAMMAD.

4. (C) COMMENT THE DROPPING OF QADAR COMES AS NO GREAT SURPRISE. HE WAS FIRED LATE LAST YEAR AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND GIVEN A PURELY MAKE-WORK JOB AFTER THAT. DANESH'S DEMISE WAS ALSO EXPECTED IN LIGHT OF HIS OUSTER SOME MONTHS AGO AS MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRY AND SUBSEQUENT EXILE AS AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA. PANDSHERI'S FALL IS MORE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN. ALTHOUGH HIS JOB AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WRITERS UNION, IN A COUNTRY WHICH IS OVER 90 PERCENT ILLITERATE WAS NEVER ONE THAT SEEMED COMMENSURATE4E WITH POLITBURO STATUS. IT IS LIKELY THAT LACKING ANY POWER BASE OR CONSTITUENCY HE SIMPLY LOST CLOUT WITHIN THE GROUP THAT HAD LAUNCHED THE APRIL 1978 COUP. IN ANY EVENT, WE DISCOUNT THE CLAIM THAT HE RESIGNED FOR HEALTH REASONS, SINCE HE HAD BEEN ACTIVE THROUGHOUT THE AUTUMN TRAVELING AND RECEIVING DELEGATIONS. THE ELEVATION OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO POLITBURO STATUS OF COURSE MAKES SENSE. WHILE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MINISTER OF TRIBES AND NATIONALITIES TO THE POLITBURO TENDS TO UNDERSCORE THE REGIME'S EFFORTS TO PACIFY AND WIN OVER BOARDER AREA TRIBES.

5. (C) IF THERE IS A KHALQ-PARCHAM FACTION ANGLE TO THE POLITBURO CHANGES IT IS NOT EVIDENT. PANJSHIRI AND DANESH WERE REPORTEDLY PARCHAMIST. WE HAVE NOTHING ON QADAR'S AFFILIATION. OUR INFORMATION ON THE NEW MEMBERS [ILLEG] AND MOHAMMAD IS THAT THEY ARE BOTH PARCHAMISTS.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
JCS MESSAGE CENTER

# EXCISE

IMMEDIATE 2  
G 250625Z NOV 85  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4600  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 2864  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 4375  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 3389

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PCON, PIMR, AF  
SUBJECT: DRA LEADERSHIP CHANGES

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2. (U) THE REGIME ANNOUNCED THAT A CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM HELD NOVEMBER 21 HAD MADE A NUMBER OF CHANGES IN THE POLITBURO AND HAD NAMED SECRET POLICE CHIEF RAJIBULLAH AS A CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

3. (U) FULL MEMBER DASTIGER PANJSHERI AND CANDIDATE MEMBERS ABDUL QADIR AND ISMAIL DANESH WERE DROPPED FROM THE POLITBURO. THE FIRST TWO WERE SAID TO HAVE REQUESTED TO BE RELIEVED FROM POLITBURO DUTIES FOR HEALTH REASONS. DANESH, WHO HAD ALREADY TAKEN UP HIS NEW POST AS AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA, WAS SAID TO BE NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH POLITBURO WORK. ADDED AS CANDIDATE MEMBERS WERE MINISTER OF TRIBES AND NATIONALITIES SUJHON LAE( ) AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE LI GENERAL NARAY MOHAMMAD.

16. COMMENT: THE DROPPING OF CHAI COMES AS NO GREAT SURPRISE. HE WAS FIRED LAST YEAR AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND GIVEN A PUNISHMENT WORK JOB AFTER THAT DAMEN'S DEWISE WAS ALSO EXERCISED IN LIGHT OF HIS QUOTER SOME MONTHS AGO AS MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRY AND SUBSEQUENT LITTLE AS AMBASSADOR TO LEBYA. SHAPIRO'S FAL. IS MORE CIRCUMSTANTIAL. AGAIN, ALTHOUGH HIS JOB AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WRITER'S UNION IN A COUNTRY WHICH IS OVER 90 PERCENT ILLITERATE WAS NEVER ONE THAT DEMED CONSIDERATE WITH POLITICAL STATUS. IT IS LIKELY THAT LACKING AN POWER BASE OF CONSTITUENCY HE SIMPLY LOST CLASH WITHIN THE GROUP THAT WAS LAUNCHED THE APRIL 1978 COUP. IN ANY EVENT, WE DISCOUNT THE CLAIM THAT HE RESIGNED FOR HEALTH REASONS, SINCE HE HAD BEEN ACTIVE THROUGHOUT THE AUTUMN TRAVELING AND RECEIVING DELEGATIONS. THE ELEVATION OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO POLITICAL STATUS OF CHINESE MAKES SENSE. WHILE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MINISTER OF TRAFFIC AND NATIONALITIES TO THE POLITICAL TENDS TO UNDERSCORE THE REGIME'S EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND WIN OVER BORDER AREA TRIBES.

1. NO IF THERE IS A BLACK-PANATHY PATTEN KILLE TO THE POLICE, IF CHANGES IT IS NOT EVIDENT. PLEASANT AND DANISH WERE IDENTIFIED. RESPONSIBLE. WE HAVE NOTHING ON PATER'S AFFILIATION. THIS INFORMATION IS THE NEW MEMBERS. LAM, AND MOHAMMAD IS THAT THE ARE BOTH PAK-  
-THAN 1977

--- JUNE 25 ---

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

REVIEWED BY Betty DATE 11/1/78

REVIEWED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( ) RELEASE ( ) DECLASSIFY  
 ( ) EXCISE (X) DECLASSIFY in PART  
 ( ) DENY ( ) Non-responsive info.  
 FOI, EO or PA exemptions (X) 17

1. ) CLASSIFY as \_\_\_\_\_, OADB  
 ( ) DO NOT GRADUATE TS to ( ) B or ( ) C, OADB

0330 ( ) CLASSIFIED  
( ) DOWNGRADE TS

[illegible]

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